

1. A process for aiding a user in developing a search request, comprising presenting to the user an interface for collecting from the user a keyphrase representative of a user search request,

analyzing said user search request to identify at least one meaning associated with said user search request,

processing said user search request and said at least one meaning to generate an expanded search request represented as a boolean search strategy, wherein the expanded search request includes related terms not defined or chosen by the user, the related terms being amended to the user search request and the one meaning in a weighted string; and

providing said expanded search request to a search engine capable of identifying information associated with said expanded search request.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein presenting to the user an interface includes providing a source of profile data representative of information that may be displayed to the user for guiding the user to supply information for refining the user search request.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein providing said source of profile data includes providing category information capable of being selected by the user to identify a topic associated with the user search strategy.

5. A process according to claim 1, wherein analyzing said user search request includes determining whether a plurality of meanings may be associated with said user search

request.

6. A process according to claim 1, wherein analyzing said user search request includes matching a portion of said keyphrase to a linguistic database to identify a list of associated meanings.

7. A process according to claim 6, including the act of processing said list of associated meanings to generate a display that presents to the user a plurality of meanings associated with said keyphrase to aid the user in disambiguating between said plural meanings.

8. A process according to claim 6, including the act of processing said list of associated meanings to generate a menu of choices that can be selected by the user to assign at least one of said associated meanings to said keyphrase.

9. A process according to claim 6 wherein analyzing said user search request includes adjusting said user interface as a function of said associated meaning to present to the user a request for information for refining said user search request.

10. A process according to claim 1, wherein analyzing a search request includes generating a user linguistic database for the user, wherein the linguistic database is separate from the knowledgebase, and wherein the linguistic database is representative of keyphrases and associated user-defined meanings.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein analyzing a search request includes accessing demographic information associated with the user for generating said expanded search request.

12. A process according to claim 1, wherein processing said user search request and said at least one meaning to generate an expanded search request, includes accessing a linguistic knowledgebase having information representative of a list of sense signals, each sense signal being information for describing a linguistic meaning, and a list of words.

13. A process according to claim 12, including the employing said keyphrase to access said user linguistic database and identify a sense signal associated with said keyphrase.

14. A process according to claim 12, including employing information from said linguistic knowledgebase to expand said user search string.

15. A system for aiding a user in developing a search request, comprising  
a linguistic knowledgebase having information representative of a list of sense signals, each sense signal being information for describing a linguistic meaning, and a list of weighted and unweighted words, wherein weighted words are weighted in relation to a potential query term;

a controller for generating an interface for collecting from the user a keyphrase representative of a user search request, and for employing said keyphrase to access information from said linguistic knowledgebase to generate an expanded search request,

and

a query mechanism for processing said expanded search request to generate a set of boolean search requests, each associated with at least one preselected search engine, wherein each of the boolean search requests corresponds to the expanded search request; and for providing each said boolean search request to a respective preselected search engine.

16. A system according to claim 15, further including a controller for adjusting the interface, as a function of information accessed from said linguistic database, for guiding the user in disambiguating between meanings for the keyphrase.

17. A system according to claim 15, further comprising a mechanism for generating a user linguistic database for the user, wherein the user linguistic database is separate from the linguistic knowledgebase, and wherein the user linguistic database is representative of keyphrases and associated user-defined meanings.

18. A system according to claim 15, further comprising means for identifying demographic information associated with said user and for employing said demographic information for expanding said user search request.

19. A system according to claim 15, wherein said controller further includes means for accessing flag signals from said linguistic knowledgebase, wherein the flag signals are associated with a sense signal and identify a condition of use of words associated with that

sense signal in the generation of the expanded search request.

21. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expanded search includes a NOT operator in association with a related term.

22. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the related terms are weighted in accordance with the relevance of the related term to the search request and the one meaning.

23. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein each boolean search request is formatted in accordance with the respective preselected search engine.

24. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the query mechanism receives search results from each preselected search engine, and further comprising:

a merger module, wherein the merger module processes the search results received from each preselected search engine for presentation to the user, wherein each entry in the search results is weighted based upon the relevance of the entry in relation to the terms of the original expanded search request.